



Message from the President:

RIOTA Moving Forward Making a Difference

It is hard to believe I am half way through my term as President. We have accomplished so much over the last year and we have already begun planning and brainstorming next years events!

This past year

- We have offered 32 hours of continuing education**
- Hosted the second annual RIOTA conference**
- Monitored state legislation which may impact our practice**
- Represented the voices of RI OT practitioners at national conference**
- Maintained cost of annual member dues**
- Increased opportunities for member networking and professional volunteerism**

Upcoming events

- Starting in September, our general meeting will focus on low vision.**
- RIOTAs 2011 conference will be May 14th and the theme of the conference is: *Seizing The Day: Occupational Therapy through Practice, Education, and Research.***
- The call for presentations is currently open and RIOTA will be accepting abstracts until October 15th. Check the RIOTA website for additional events!**

It has been an honor to represent RIOTA over the last year and at the AOTA national conference in Orlando. I moved here 10 years ago and never could have imagined feeling so welcome and so much a part of the OT community here in Rhode Island, more less being the President of this state! While Rhode Island is not where I was born and raised, I consider this home!

For this reason, I want to stress to all OT practitioners in the state what an exciting and important time to become involved in our state association and be an AOTA member! We need to come together as a profession, to advocate for ourselves, and stand-up for what we believe in as professionals! The passage of this health care reform has significant implications for OT. While the Legislation has passed, the implementation of this legislation and the development of the programs to put the legislation into action will continue to unravel over the next few years. We must continue to support AOTA with our membership dues so they can continue to lobby on capitol hill for our profession and our best interests!! At the state level, we need your membership so that we can continue to promote and advocate for OT in this state! There are over 800 practitioners licensed in this state, yet our membership does not reflect this magnitude! Across the country Occupational therapy practitioners are fighting for their profession, facing limitations on state practice issues and other professions encroaching on the practice OT!

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The American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.

RIOTA Executive Board

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Message from the President ~ continued

While I am happy to serve you as your president, the board and I need your help, we can not do it alone! I am challenging all practitioners in the state to give two hours in the next 365 days to the profession! I am asking each of you to donate two hours to RIOTA. You can donate your two hours in many ways including: give two hours to conference planning, volunteer to review conference abstracts, volunteering to facilitate a topic at RIOTA monthly education session, attend a board meeting, attend our annual retreat. Many of the activities RIOTA is seeking assistance with are tasks that you can do in the comfort of your home! We are looking to our membership to draw on your strengths, if you are an individual who enjoys doing artistic projects, we can use your artistic talent! If you are an individual that is highly organized and can donate two hours to assist with planning and schedule of the conference we want to work with you! If you have new ideas and are a forward thinker we want to have you join us at a board meeting so you can share your ideas and help us develop a plan to achieve these goals. The opportunities are endless! I look forward to hearing from all of you! Email me (president@riota.org) and let me know what skills you are interested in contributing to RIOTA over the next year!

Have a safe and happy summer!

Natalie

Natalie Leland PhD, OTR/L, BCG

President of RIOTA



Thanks to everyone who made RIOTA's 2nd Annual Spring Conference such a Huge success!!



Special Interest Group Updates

PEDS Special Interest Group

The Pediatric Special Interest Group had a great year of presentations and guest lecturers this year. We would like to thank all who attended and especially those who stepped up to offer our members a little bit of their expertise. We started the year out with *OT on a Shoestring Budget* and Lisa Edwards shared her "bag of tricks". It was a great time with hands on "make and take" low budget equipment. We discussed *Case Studies and Problem Solving* and brainstormed treatment ideas and issues. Next, we took a field trip to Cornerstone School where Stacey Lehrer OTR/L and Lori Lapre PTA shared their knowledge on *Pediatric Positioning, Mobility and Equipment*. We even got to try a hooyer lift and supine stander! We combined efforts with the Mental Health SIG to bring you Christine Low Ph.D and Megan Beers Ph.D

from Brown University to discuss *Addressing the Mental Health Needs of Children and Their Families: Early Childhood Mental Health*. We also welcomed a new baby into the world as Anne Harwood added to her family. Anne and I would like to thank all who volunteered over the past two years to make our PEDS meetings so successful. We will be passing the PEDS SIG chair positions over to Stacey Lehrer OTR/L and Michaela Turbitt OTR/L. We would like to welcome them and urge all of you to please continue to support RIOTA by your membership.

Thank you!

Erin Sullivan, MS, OTR/L

Ann Harwood OTR/L

Peds Co-Chair

pediatricsig@riota.org



Physical Disabilities Special Interest Group Update

The Physical Disabilities SIG saw record numbers of members and non-members at the events this year! Thank you for your ongoing support of RIOTA!

Dr. Thomas J. Guilmette, Ph.D., ABPP-CN, presented at the OT Month Party on "Family Dynamics: Helping or Hindering". As always, Dr. Guilmette captivated the crowd with his wit and RIOTA received numerous positive comments about his presentation. Most recently, the Physical Disabilities SIG teamed up with the Mental Health SIG and co-sponsored Dr. Colin Harrington's presentation on "Post-Stroke Depression". This was the first time Dr. Harrington presented for RIOTA and we are excited for him to present at future events!

As always, we are interested in any suggestions for future meeting topics. Also, please contact us if you would like to present at a Physical Disabilities SIG Meeting.

Stay tuned for upcoming fall 2010 events!

Have a great summer!

Trish McGee, MS, OTR/L

Keri Kinniburgh, COTA

Physical Disabilities SIG Co-Chairs

Mental Health Special Interest Group Update

Dear RIOTA members,

Thank you for all of your participation in this year's Mental Health SIG events! Janet Spinelli, RN, from RI DMRH, spoke to the Group about "Mental Health Issues in the Geriatric Population." We also combined efforts

with both the Pediatric SIG for an enlightening presentation, entitled "Addressing the Mental Health Needs of Children and Their Families," given by Christine Low, PhD, and Megan Beers, PhD. Most recently we co-sponsored an event with the Adult SIG, given by Dr. Colin Harrington, who spoke about "Post-Stroke Depression."

Thanks to your support and enthusiasm, all were wonderfully successful events!

Please stay tuned for upcoming fall events. Suggestions and ideas for meeting topics are welcome!

Please email mentalhealth@riota.org with any suggestions or questions.



Truly,
Brett Brumbaugh, MS, OTR/L

The Representative Assembly

AOTA's annual conference was held in Orlando, Florida this year. I was fortunate enough to spend a few days pre-conference at the face to face RA meeting. I brought with me your thoughts and concerns which were expressed at the RIOTA April meeting, regarding the proposed motions, including the AOTA restructuring motion. I greatly appreciate all of your feedback and comments; your input makes my discussions, debates and voting much more focused and directed as I represent the members of Rhode Island.

This year the Assembly considered several motions and several substitutes, as well as a few motions that were introduced during the meeting itself. For these 'new' motions, I did not have the benefit of constituent feedback and therefore it was helpful to have had our discussions and emails to work from prior to debate and vote. Below are the original motions and the offered substitute motions with their outcomes.

<u>Original motions</u>	<u>Action taken</u>	<u>Substitute offered</u>
Guides for re-entry into the profession	Approved with slight technical amendment	N/A
Participation review/ad hoc (reorganization)	Defeated (Very close vote!!)	See full substitution below ** (unanimous acceptance on this substitute)
Honorary membership for retired OT's	Defeated – Huge fiscal implication Awaiting new motion to be drafted to support retired OTs when needed.	N/A
School system specialty	Defeated	Substitute accepted to implement Phase One exploratory panel
Fieldwork supervision of OTA's	Defeated	Substitute passed to promote understanding of role of OTA students in SNF's
Code of Ethics	Passed- 3 old documents were rescinded, one composite document was approved.	N/A

Participation review/ad hoc Committee Substitute Motion

The substitute motion regarding the Presidents Ad hoc committee findings related to participation and reorganization reads: (sic) I move the President to appoint an ad hoc committee composed of the following people: Commission Chairs (4), SISC Chair, RA Speaker, and RA member, a member of the current participation ad hoc, 3 members at-large, a member of ASAP, an ASD steering Committee member, and OTA member, an officer of the Association and a Chairperson to continue to explore opportunities for both procedural and organizational changes designed to respond to the concerns raised by the President in the recently defeated Participation Review motion with a report and recommended action to the Assembly in the Fall 2010.

We, the Assembly, felt this newly proposed committee would better serve to meet the intent of the President as well as to address the many concerns emphasized by our constituents.

Finally, I would like to take a moment to thank Amy Battles-Borkowski for accepting the nomination for RI RA rep. She will be appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly on June 1, 2010. I am grateful for her enthusiasm, her generous offer of time and her professional attitude toward volunteerism.

If you have any specific questions, please feel free to contact me directly at: RIRA@RIOTA.org . Also, OT Connections (<http://otconnections.aota.org/>) has a great deal of past discussion up for review; as well as some new discussions on present proposals.

Lisa Edwards, OTR/L

Volunteer Opportunity

Over 20 RIOTA members and students participated in this spring's Rebuilding Together event! Rebuilding Together is the nation's leading nonprofit working to preserve affordable homeownership and revitalize communities. Rebuilding Together believes in a safe and healthy home for every person. This means disabled and aging homeowners should be able to remain in their homes for as long as possible. What a wonderful volunteer experience for RIOTA members!



This is the third year that RIOTA has been involved with this opportunity in coordination with Newport County Board of Realtors. **V o l u n t e e r s** devoted two weekends to the clean-up and renovation of a Newport home for a middle-aged woman with Down Syndrome and her family. Members assisted with cleaning, organizing, painting, and planting flowers. A bathroom evaluation was also completed for the newly

renovated bathroom. Residents were extremely grateful and happy with the restoration and beautification of their home! Thank you to everyone who made this event a huge success! It was a great way to promote our state organization and celebrate OT Month. See you next year!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Lima, MS, OTR/L

Volunteer Chair

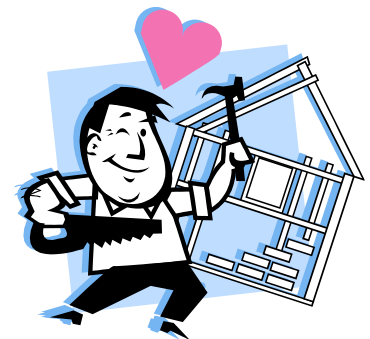
riotavolunteer@riota.org

Erin Sullivan MS, OTR/L

PEDS Chair



Rebuilding Together 2010!!



RIOTA Calendar

RIOTA has had a busy year and we are taking a break for the summer!! Executive Board meetings will resume in September, along with our Special Interest Group events and much more!! Please check back for updates and our upcoming schedule!

Thank you all for your support!



RIOTA welcomes all
New & Returning
Members & Students

- Leigh Coderre*
- Anne Doughty*
- Diane Driscoll*
- Margo Gibson*
- Carolyn Levesque*
- Sandra Moreira*
- Kristin Norklun*
- Kayla Silva*
- Colleen Strycharz-Douglas*



Continuing Education Program in Low Vision for OT's and COTA's

Visions of Independence, a national leader in the field of visual rehabilitative therapy, is offering a continuing education course for OT's and COTA's in this new, exciting emerging practice area. This program is designed as a combination on-line training class, done at the participant's convenience, and two lab sessions

Course Curriculum

- Anatomy and physiology of the visual system
- The aging eye, visual impairments and resources
- Functional vision assessment and tests
- Optical and non-optical systems to help teach reading and writing
- Sighted guide, depth perception cues and filters
- Environmental modifications/safety and training for ADL's and IADL's
- Telephone use, telling time and money identification
- Psychosocial concerns and community resources

Course Methodology

- Eight on-line training modules (one per week)
- Two lab sessions occurring on weekends

Course Details

- Course eligible for 15 -18 contact hours for NCBOT or licensure
- Cost- \$450
- **\$100 rebate for OT's who join our practice (\$200 for RI OT's)**

Space is very limited. Enroll today! Classes start June 20th

For more information contact: Elliot Feldman, Visions of Independence

E-Mail: visions.of.independence@verizon.net www.visionsofindependence.com 781-784-3320

Spotlight on Schools:



RIOTA wishes to thank the many student volunteers who assisted us at the RIOTA conference from both CCRI and NEIT! Their assistance was invaluable and we look forward to their continued involvement in RIOTA!

NEIT: Deborah Grenon, Justin Erban, Kathleen Hunt, Lila Lizotte, Susan Cormier, James Terranova, Paula Wilson, Theresa Hogan, Ernie Staeltore, Karen Alexander

CCRI: Kimberly Allsup, Rebecca Bronk, Rich Cooke, Erica Damiano, Juanita Jefferis, Jill Johnson, Emily Miller, Diana Moniz, Christine O'Gara, Catherine Pilkington, Karen Romanski, Kate Swanson, Julia Szumita, Jessica Tanner, Jeremy Tolleson, Lisa Vaudrain, Susan Walker



RIOTA Announcements!!

RIOTA is accepting call for papers for our 3rd Annual Conference on May 14th, 2011!

Want to get involved and contribute to your profession?

Consider volunteering for RIOTA's board!

Check out our board page for empty positions. We are a fun and lively group!

For more information, email president@riota.org



RIOTA would like to thank the following board members who have just completed their terms!!

We appreciate everything you have done, and continue to do!!

Trish McGee, Secretary

Ann Harwood and Erin Sullivan,

Peds SIG Co-Chairs

Sue Higgins, Treasurer

Lisa Edwards, RA

Save the date!

RIOTA's 3rd Annual Conference will take place on May 14, 2011!

Hope to see you all there!!